

discriminating means for ascertaining the genuine or counterfeit nature and denomination of the inserted coins, and type of the coin-type IC cards;

sorting means for guiding the ascertained coin-type IC cards into a passage that communicates with the coin pay-out slot; and information input/output means for ascertaining the genuine or counterfeit nature of the coin-type IC cards by reading and writing information from or in the coin-type IC cards, the information input/output means being disposed at an intermediate point in the passage.

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 5, 7 and 8 as being indefinite for use of the word "beforehand". This term has been deleted from the claims and accordingly the claims are now considered definite.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected as being anticipated by Patent No. 4,969,549. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 4, 6 and 9 through 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Further applicant notes that claims 5, 7 and 8 have not been rejected based on the art and accordingly it would appear that once the rejections under section 112 have been dealt with that such claims would also be allowable.

Accordingly, applicant has amended the claims to reflect that Examiner's indication of allowance, claim 1 now becomes a combination of claims 1, 2 and 3, claim 4 is a combination of claims 1, 2 and 4; claim 5 is a combination of claims 1 and 5, while claims 9 to 13 have been amended to be independent and each in combination with original claim 1.

As such applicant believes that all of the remaining claims are now allowable and earnestly solicits an early notice of same.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to contact that undersigned at the above listed number.

Respectfully submitted,


Gerald T. Shekleton
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 27,466

July 21, 2003
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 655-1500